

REMARKS

5 In the Official Action mailed on June 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 12 and objected to claims 3 – 5, 8 – 11 and 13 – 15.

In response to Examiner's rejections and objections to the selected claims, as described above, applicants have amended the claims as shown above.

10 With regard to claim 1, the limitation previously contained in claim 4 has been added to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 4 has been canceled and claim 5 has been amended to be dependent on claim 1 instead of claim 4.

Claim 6 has been amended to contain the limitation previously contained in claim 8. As a result, claim 8 has been canceled and claim 9 has been made dependent on claim 7 instead of claim 8.

15 Claim 12 has been amended to contain the limitation previously contained in claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 has been canceled and claim 14 has been made dependent on claim 12 instead of claim 13.

New claim 16 has been added. Claim 16 contains the limitations originally contained in claims 1 and 3.

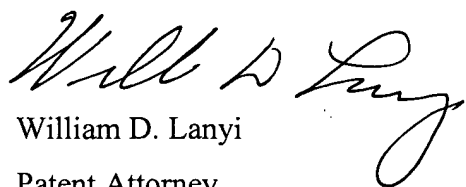
20 All of the remaining claims, shown above, are now in proper form for allowance, based on the selective objections made by the Examiner in the Official Action.

In response to the changes made to the claims of the subject patent application and in view of the discussion above, applicants respectfully request Examiner's reconsideration of the subject patent application and expeditious allowance of claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9 – 12, and 14 – 16.

25 Applicant intends to provide formal drawings after receipt of the Notice of Allowance to replace the originally filed drawings which, although determined by the Examiner to be suitable for prosecution, are informal.

In view of the changes made to the claims of the subject patent application and in further view of the discussion above, applicants respectfully request Examiner's reconsideration of the 30 subject patent application and expeditious allowance of claims 1 – 4, 8 – 11, 13 – 21, and 23.

Respectfully Submitted,



William D. Lanyi

5 Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 30,190
(920) 929-5419

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